[21st March 1953

Lignite deposit in Cannanore, North Malabar.

* 117 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether deposits of red lignite have been located in and around Cannanore, North Malabar; and

(b) whether the Government have considered the possibility of exploiting the same?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) It is not clear what is meant by red lignite. It is presumed that the member refers to ordinary lignite (brown coal). If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) Yes, Sir.

Mr. Ghose, Officer-in-charge, Lignite Investigation, South Arcot, and the officers of the Geological Survey of India who conducted investigation into the matter were of the opinion that, in view of the limited extent of the lignite deposits known at present under the town and of the indications that sea water is saturating the lignite bed, there was no use in further exploring the deposits at Cannanore. Further investigation was, therefore, dropped."

Constitution of new panchayats.

* 118 Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are subsidizing Class II panchayats under section 71 of the Panchayats Act;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the Government propose to give effect to the scheme of opening new panchayat boards for villages with a population of not less than 500?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (a) Not so far.

" (b) In view of the fact that new panchayats under the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950, have not yet been formed and classified, the consideration of the question of land revenue allotment to be provided under section 71 of the Act has been deferred for the present.

" (c) The question of constituting new panchayats for villages in non-panchayat areas in accordance with the provisions of the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950, will be taken up after elections to the existing panchayats are completed."

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Government are postponing the starting of new panchayats simply because they could not spare enough money for subsidizing the second-class panchayats? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The Government's intention has been made clear, Sir."